

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

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TAGS: EAGR, EORG, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - FIRST PREPCOM- SECOND DAY'S
SESSION

1. FULL DAY'S SESSION OF PREPCOM DEVOTED TO GENERAL COMMENTS BY
NUMBEROUS DELEGATIONS ON MEANS REACHING CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PROVISIONAL WFC AGENDA. BROAD SUPPORT
AMONG MOST DELS WAS EXPRESSED FOR FIVE POINTS AGENDA, WITH ONLY
SUDAN EXPLICITLY RECOMMENDING DELETION ITEM 5 ON TRADE. MOST DC'S
GAVE VIEW THAT ANNOTATIONS TOO DETAILED AND SHOULD SERVE AS BASIS
FOR PREPARATION DOCUMENTATION AND FOCUS FOR DISCUSSION, NOT AS
SUB-HEADINGS OF AGENDA. DC'S ALSO PLACED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON
IMPORTANCE MOVING FORWARD RAPIDLY ON FIRST TWO AGENDA ITEMS
REGADING ASSESSMENT CURRENT AND PROJECTED FOOD SITUATION IN
ORDER HAVE AGREED-UPON BASIS FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN LATER
PREPCOMS. IN DISCUSSING PART B OF AGENDA, DC'S UNDERLINED
INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDC'S AS MAJOR ITEM. STOCKPILING AND
FOOD AID RECIEVED SOME ATTENTION, PARTICULARLY FROM CANADIAN DEL.
HOWEVER, GENERAL THRUST WAS THAT WORK ON PART B SHOULD AWAIT
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COMPLETION OF ASSESSMENTS AND THAT DOCUMENTATION SHOULD

NOT BE OVER-AMBITIOUS IN SCOPE BUT SHOULD DRAW ON EXISTING STUDIES AND OTHER SECONDARY SOURCES. THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT AMONG SPEAKERS REGARDING RELATIVE VALUE LONG AND SHORT-TERM PROJECTIONS, BUT MAJORITY FELT PROJECTIONS BEYOND 1985 UNREALISTIC.

2. LDC'S PREDICTABLY TOOK LARGER VIEW OF WFC GOALS, SAYING FOOD SCARCITY PROBLEM MUST BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SEVERAL LDC'S URGED WFC RESULTS SHOULD INCLUDE "SPECIFIC BINDING COMMITMENTS". PERUVIAN SAID AGENDA TOPICS HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVER-DISCUSSED IN PREVIOUS FORUMS, NEED WAS TO CLEAR OBSTACLES WHICH HAVE BLOCKED IMPLEMENTATION OF NUMEROUS EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS. TRADE ISSUE ALSO HIT HEAVILY BY LDC'S WHO INCLUDED ASSURED MARKET EXCESS, ELIMINATION TARIFFS AND NTB IN GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT. ARGENTINE CALLED FOR CONCRETE PROGRAMS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE TO FOSTER INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION, BUT INTERESTINGLY REJECTED DISCUSSION AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AS INSUFFICIENTLY ANALYZED FOR INCLUSION IN WFC. LDC'S ALSO APPEARED INTERESTED IN RAPID APPROVAL AGENDA AND GREATER DISCUSSION ANNOTATIONS. CHAIRMAN RYDBECK, HOWEVER, MADE IT CLEAR THAT APPROVAL AGENDA EXTENDED ONLY TO FIVE POINTS AND NOT ANNOTATIONS.

3. COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS WERE ALONE IN ATTEMPTING POLITICIZE DISCUSSIONS. SOVIET DEL LED OFF SAYING PEACE, SECURITY, AND RELAXATION INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS WERE PREREQUISITE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGRETTING NEGATIVE ATTITUDE SOME NATIONS TOWARD DETENTE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS BAN. TURNING SPECIFICALLY TO CONFERENCE PROVISIONAL AGENDA, USSR DELEGATE MAKEYEV SAID ALL POINTS RELATED TO POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LDC'S. CAUSES LDC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS RELATED TO LOOTING BY IMPERIALIST CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. SOVIET MENTIONED NEED PROFOUND SOCIAL REFORM. THIS THEME ECHOED IN COMMENTS OTHER DELEGATES WITH BDR AND POLES EMPHASIZING LAND REFORM.

4. COMMENT ASIDE FROM EAST EUROPEAN RHETORIC, DELEGATION STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY REASONABLE WITH LDC'S UNDERSTANDABLY PUSHING FOR BROADER FOCUS AND MORE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS AND LDC'S CONCENTRATING ON INVESTIGATIVE ASPECTS.

5. INTERESTING NOTE THAT TO DATE THERE HAD BEEN NOT CHINESE PARTICIPATION IN PREPCOM.

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